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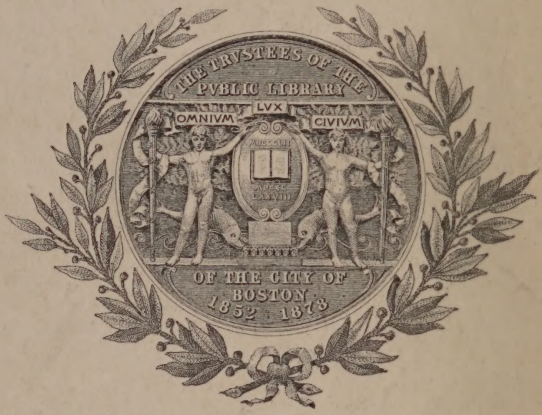
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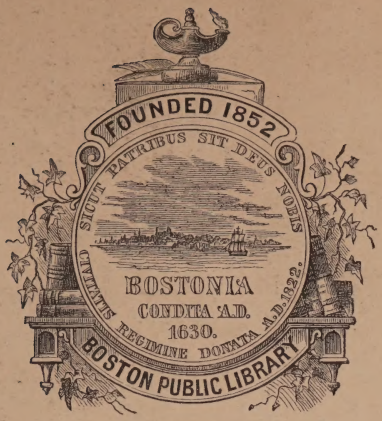

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PAMPHLETS.

Boston

Liberty Tree

Form 2350a51
May 7, 1883
328,190

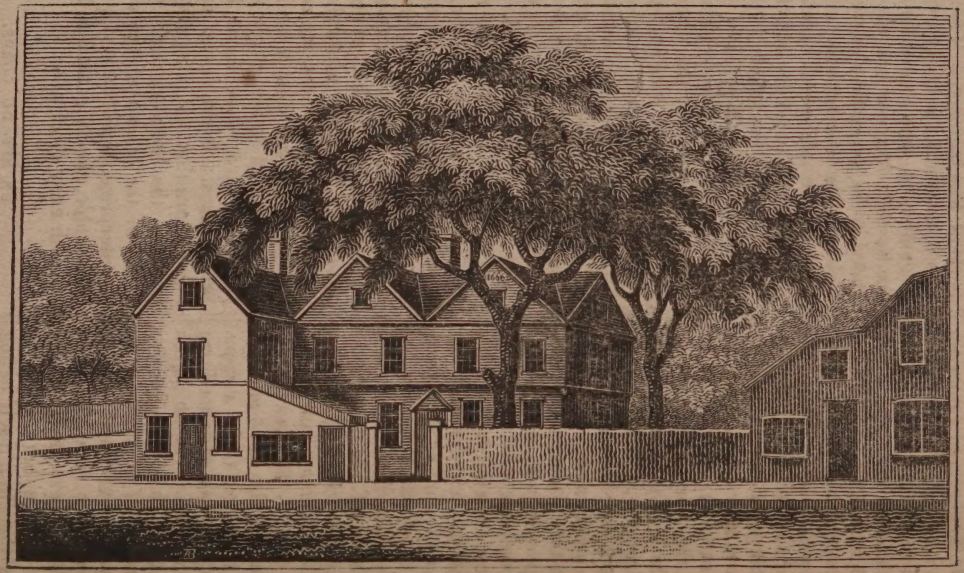
lowed by Kean in the same supplicating attitude as before. But the presence of the manager did not obtain for Mr. K. his wish, nor protect him from the provoking taunts of the audience, and a continued discharge of the aforenamed artillery. They stood a while, till Mr. K. observed among the missiles some small brass or gilt balls, which seemed to alarm his fears, and then both withdrew, and Mr. Kilner came forward with a placard, on one side of which he exhibited the information "*Mr. Kean declines playing*," and from the other side he asked the question "*Shall the play go on without him?*" All was now uproar and confusion; the attempt was made to proceed with the play, but in vain; after getting through two scenes, the curtain was dropped and the lamps upon the stage extinguished.

While this pantomime was performing within the theatre, a numerous concourse of people was gathered in the streets around and near the house, anxious to know how affairs proceeded within: most of them drawn thither from curiosity, and some no doubt bent on mischief. By the time the playing ceased, they had worked their way towards the doors of the house, and were making a rush to enter, without the leave of door keepers or of the constables on duty. The lawful tenants of the house at the same moment thought of making their escape. These counter currents produced an unavoidable collision. Some blows were given, but which of the parties struck first is not yet decided. The windows were assailed with stones from without, and the mob, for such it must be called, were assailed with window sashes from within: one gentleman actually thought himself acting in self-defence, when he cut away the lines of one of the windows and sent the sashes into the street, and would have hurled one of the weights, had not a more composed bystander seized his arm and warned him of his rashness. Considerable damage was done to the inside of the theatre: the chandeliers were wantonly broken, some of the iron railings were torn from their positions, the seats of some of the boxes and in the pit were torn up, some of the box doors removed from their hinges (it is said this was in some cases done by those within the house) and other injuries to various parts of the building. The scenery was preserved from injury by the aid of gentlemen who assisted to protect the house. More or less uproar prevailed in the house and vicinity until 11 o'clock: the riot act was partly read, some police officers of high authority were present, but no decided effort was made to check the rioters by the arm of the law. Mr. Kean left the city the next day in great trepidation. It was at first reported that the damage done to the house was so serious as probably to prevent the performances being renewed for some weeks. The requisite repairs, however, were soon made, and the theatre opened again on Monday evening last, with the tragedy of George Barnwell.

Those who rejoice in the result of this experiment upon popular feelings, (for such it certainly was,) so far as regards the expulsion of Mr. Kean, equally regret the occurrences which took place after he had retired from the theatre. Those, who calmly consider the circumstances, we are confident, will be far from agreeing with those who join in the outcry that Boston has disgraced its name by these proceedings. It can be no credit to any persons that the prosperity of this city, and the eminent rank which it holds in the esteem of the world for its enterprize, in all that is virtuous and honourable, should cause it to be viewed with envy or ill will.

ESPRIT DU CORPS.

The prosperity of Boston should be the desire of every citizen—the prosperity of a city is that of its inhabitants, collectively and individually. It therefore, becomes the duty of every citizen, for his own benefit, to endeavour to promote the welfare and prosperity of the city in which he resides and transacts his business.—*Statesm.*



(Drawn and Engraved by A. Bowen, for the History of Boston.)

LIBERTY TREE, 1774,

CORNER OF ESSEX AND ORANGE STREETS.

The world should never forget the spot where once stood Liberty Tree, so famous in your annals.—*La Fayette in Boston.*

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LIBERTY TREES.

It was a thing very common among the ancient heathen to dedicate trees as well as other objects to their gods, goddesses, and demigods. Thus the oak we believe was sacred to Jove, the ivy to Bacchus, the olive to Minerva, &c. We can remember something too in History respecting the *Reformation Oak* in connection with the name of JackCade. When people first thought of making Liberty a goddess and consecrating trees to her, we cannot say. But about the time when the troubles between the American colonies and the mother country commenced, there appears to have been laid in England an unpopular excise upon cider, and the sufferers under the act assembled near Honiton in Devonshire, and appropriated an apple tree as an altar at which they might sacrifice the image of the minister with whom the act originated. It was in imitation of this exhibition that, we suppose, our revolutionary Liberty Trees took their rise. The most famous were the ones at Boston, Providence, Newport, and New York.

It fell to the native Elm to be selected for this purpose in America. That which was set apart in Boston was a wide-spreading and beautiful tree, which stood in front of the house which now makes the corner of Essex and Washington streets, opposite Boylston Market. This spot from a very early period was distinguished as the centre of business at the south part of the town. The building was erected in 1666, and the frame of it yet remains, though its antiquity is hardly discernible through the changes which repeated repairs have made in its appearance. Printing was carried on there, in 1728. John Elliot and after him his son John were noted there in their profession. Several other large elms grew in the vicinity, and our aged inhabitants remember the place by the name of the *neighbourhood of the Elm trees.*

It was on the 14th of August, 1765, that this tree was devoted by the "Sons of Liberty," to expose on it the effigies of the men who had rendered themselves odious by their agency in procuring or favouring the passage of the Stamp Act: And on the 11th of Sept. following they fixed a copper plate, 2 ft. and a half, by 3 ft. and a half in dimensions upon it, bearing the inscription, in gold letters, *The Tree of Liberty, Aug.* 14, 1765. Ever after, most of the popular meetings of the "sons of liberty" were held in the square round this tree (called Hanover square, probably in honor of the Royal family) until they were obliged to leave the town in the time of the siege.

The British made it an object of ridicule. The soldiers made poor Ditson, whom they tarred and feathered, parade in front of this tree before they would let him go, and one of their greatest exploits during the siege was the felling this famous eye-sore. This was effected about the last week in August, 1775. One Job Williams was the leader of the party that accomplished the feat, leaving nothing but the stump above ground; *the root* they could not touch. One of their comrades lost his life by accident on the occasion. This tree had been planted 119 years, viz. (say the Pemberton MSS.) 'in 1646, and bore the first fruits of liberty in America.'

We are informed by an old and reputable inhabitant who was present at the time, that the tree, when cut, made fourteen cords of wood. For a long time after the revolution the place was designated by the name of "*Liberty Stump,*" and is now marked by a post bearing a sign with the representation of the Tree, to inform the public that a house of entertainment is kept in the ancient dwelling by Mr. J. Clark.

It has been suggested by a writer in the Providence Journal, that that town is entitled to the claim of having first solemnly dedicated a *Tree to Liberty,* and also of having been the theatre of the first exhibition of a popular oration on the subject of liberty. The dedication of the Providence Liberty-tree, however, took place nearly three years after that of the Boston tree. It

was on Monday, July 25, 1768. An account of this transaction appeared in the first number of Samuel Hall's Essex Gazette, published at Salem, Aug. 2d of that year.

This tree is said to have been remarkable for its size, and stood near the site of the present residence of the widow of Col. Jere. Olney, in Olney's lane, which was then occupied as a tavern. The tree was a point of reference in Providence, and whenever strangers inquired for the best place to put up, they were directed to the *Elm Tree*.

At the hour appointed for dedicating this tree, (5 P. M.) there was a great concourse of the people of Providence and the neighbouring towns—many going a considerable distance out of the province of Mass. to assist on the occasion. An animated discourse was delivered from the summer house in the tree, by a son of liberty, Silas Downer, Esq. member of the bar, whose name is intimately connected with the anecdotal history of that period. The people in the summer-house laying their hands on the tree, he pronounced these words aloud :—"*We do in the name and behalf of all the true sons of liberty in America, Great Britain, Ireland, Corsica, or wheresoever they may be dispersed throughout the world, dedicate this tree to Liberty. May all our counsels and deliberations under its venerable branches be guided by wisdom and directed for the support and maintenance of that liberty, which our forefathers sought out and found under the trees and in the wilderness ; may it long flourish, and may the sons of liberty often repair hither to confirm and strengthen each other. When they look toward this sacred Elm may they be penetrated with a sense of their duty to themselves and their posterity, and may they like the house of David grow stronger, while their enemies like the house of Saul shall grow weaker and weaker. Amen.*

The idea that this speech of Mr. Downer was the first of the kind, is equally incorrect. If we make no account of the oration of James Otis, at the re-opening of Faneuil Hall, March 14, 1763, which the enemies of liberty thought a high liberty speech, we must give precedence on this point to the speech delivered at Portsmouth, N. H. Nov. 1, 1765, at the funeral of Liberty. (See Adams' Annals of Portsmouth, p. 213.)

To be continued.

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

At a meeting of the friends of the proposed Massachusetts Agricultural College, to be located in the neighbourhood of Boston, at the Atheneum in Boston, Nov. 8, 1825, the Rev. Charles Lowell, D. D. was chosen Chairman, and the Rev. Warren Fay, Secretary.

After some discussion it was deemed expedient, that some person be appointed to receive the monies, which might be procured as funds for the proposed Agricultural College, and who should act as Treasurer. Isaac Warren, Esq. was chosen permanent Treasurer.

Voted, that a Committee of six be appointed to solicit donations and subscriptions in aid of the aforesaid college.

Voted, that Lewis Tappan, Francis J. Oliver, and Jona. Phillips, Esqrs. Dr. Benja. Shurtleff, Benja. Guild, and and Hall J. Kelly, Esqrs. be this Committee.

Voted, that the Treasurer be authorized to call another meeting, whenever it may be deemed necessary.

Voted, that this meeting be dissolved.

Warren Fay, Secretary.

BOSTON FOREIGN TRADE.

Amount of duties which accrued to government in the first quarter of the *four last years.*

1st qr. of 1822	-	$550,771 40
" " 1823	-	598,788 66
" " 1824	-	627,674 10
" " 1825	-	1,058,087 04
This gives an INCREASE during the first quarter of 1825, over that of 1824, of the sum of		$430,412 94

Accession No. .....

Added ..... 187 ....

Catalogued by .....

Revised by .....

Memoranda.